Micronutrient Initiative (MI), International Development Research Centre (IDRC), a Public Corporation of the Government of Canada.

(b) The production of sugar fortified with Vitamin 'A' on commercial scale depends upon its economic viability, efficacy on the targeted population, etc.

(c) and (d) The price of freesale sugar is not governed by the Government. Therefore, the question of permitting sugar companies to raise the price of sugar fortified with Vitamin 'A' does not arise.

Food stocks

808. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revamp PDS in order to reduce its rising food stocks as reported in the 'Hindustan Time' dated the 16th February, 2002;

(b) if so, what is the food stocks presently available with Government indicating the amount, Centre have incurred till date in procuring/storing/on subsidies and what budgetary allocations is likely to be made for the next year in this account;

(c) the rise in allocation of foodgrains to 'BPL' and 'APL' likely to be made and the rate per kg. under PDS; and

(d) how much wheat/rice is likely to be exported/made available to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Revamping of Public Distribution System (PDS) is a continuing process. As and when required, necessary steps are taken to improve the functioning of PDS and to reduce the food stocks. So far, Government of India has taken a number of steps to increase the off-take of foodgrains to liquidate the excess stocks as per details given in the enclosed Statement.

The stocks of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in the Central Pool were 563.35 lakh tonnes as on 1st February, 2002. Till 4.3.2002 a subsidy of Rs. 12,787 crores has been released to Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Rs. 614.38

crores to State Governments (under decentralized procurement). As far as budgetary allocation for 2002-03 is concerned an amount of Rs. 20,313 crores for FCI and Rs. 877 crores for State Governments under decentralized procurement has been allocated.

Below Poverty Line (BPL) families are being given 25 Kgs. of foodgrains per family per month. No such quota has been fixed for Above Poverty Line (APL) families. The present BPL & APL issue prices of foodgrains are as under:

(Rs. per Kg.)

	Rice	Wheat
BPL	5.65	4.15
APL	8.30	6.10

(d) The quantity of wheat and rice offered for export depends on the stock position in the Central Pool. The quantities likely to be exported depend on the International Market as well as the needs to particular country.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government of India to Increase off-take of foodgrainsto Liquidate the Excess Stocks

(i) The allocation of foodgrains for Below the Poverty Line (BPL) families was revised w.e.f. 1.12.2000 on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000. As a result, the number of BPL families eligible for subsidised foodgrains has increased from 5.96 crores families to 6.52 crore families.

(ii) The entitlement for BPL families was raised from 10 kg. per family per month to 20 kg. per family per month from April 2000, and further to 25 kg. family per month from July 2001.

(iii) The Central Issue Price (CIP) of wheat and rice was reduced as under with effect from 12.7.2001, which will be valid till 31.3.2002.

(Rs. per quintal)

	BPL	APL
Wheat	415	610
Rice	565	830

(iv) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana was announced on 25.12.2000 for the one crore poorest of the poor BPL families. The Scheme is now under implementation in all States / UTs. Each of the Antyodaya families is given 25 kg. of foodgrains @ Rs. 2 per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg. for rice.

v) Foodgrains are made available at BPL rates for allotment to state Governments @ 5 kg. per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions, such as beggar homes, orphanages / Nari Niketans, etc. sponsored by the sate Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India.

vi) Foodgrains at CIP applicable for BPL families are being allocated for all the welfare scheme including SC/ST/OBC hostels scheme, implemented by the various Ministries of the Government of India.

vii) Foodgrains are being allocated at BPL rates for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to the BPL category) implemented by NGOs, sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by international organizations like the World Food Programme.

viii) Government has allocated 38.33 lakh MTs of foddgrains, free of cost, from January 2001 to 12.2.2002 for undertaking Food for Work programmes in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himahcal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan. Besides, Government had allocated one lakh MTs of foodgrains for distribution in the earthquake- affected areas of Gujarat in January 2001.

ix) Government of India has decided to give additional allocation of foodgrains at BPL rates to the drought affected States for distribution to all the drought affected families (BPL & APL) @ 20 kg. per family per month for a period of three months in the current financial year. The Govts. of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have already been allocated additional foodgrains. The Govt. of Bihar has been given additional allocation of 1.80 lakh MTs of wheat at BPL rates for flood relief.

x) In Novermber 2000, it was decided to permit FCI to make wheat available from the Central Pool for the purpose of export. A quantity of 42.96 lakh tonnes of wheat has been exported so far. With effect from the current financial year *i.e.* 2001-2002, FCI has also been making available rice for the purpose of export, The quantity lifted so far is 14.03 lakh tonnes.

xi) The Ministry of Rural Development has launched the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) on 25th September 2001 based on the announcement made by the Prime Minister on 15th August 2001. Under the programme, it is envisaged to utilize 50 lakh MTs of foodgrains every year. The allocation of foodgrains under SGRY upto 13.2.2002 has been 26.41 lakh MTs.

xii) The open Market Sale Scheme of wheat was continued during the current financial year 2001- 2002. The quantity sold from April 2001 to 15.2.2002 was 37.87 lakh tonnes.

Sugar Allocation from Maharashtra Sugar Mills

809. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar allocated to the other States from sugar mills in Maharashtra alongwith actual upliftment;

(b) whether Government propose to procure sugar quota not lifted by the state Governments; and

(c) whether Government plan to provide gododwn space to the sugar mills in view of the ensuing crushing season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Under the policy of partial control, the government makes allocation of sugar to the sugar factories for levy. As regards non levy, freesale sugar, the Directorate of Sugar issues release orders indicating the quantity of sugar which can be sold by the sugar factories during the validity period of the release orders. The levy sugar is procured for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS), while the freesale sugar is allowed to be sold by the sugar factories in the open market. Maharashtra, being a surplus State in respect of sugar, the allocation of levy sugar is made to other States also.